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# WARD MUST BARE BLACKMAIL PLOT

To-Night's Weather—FAIR.

To-Morrow's Weather—FAIR.

THE EVENING WORLD  
WALL STREET CLOSING TABLES.

The

Evening

World.

WALL STREET THE EVENING WORLD  
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## Railroad Freight Rates Cut About 10 Per Cent.

### RAILROAD FREIGHT RATES ORDERED CUT 10 PER CENT.; FARES ARE NOT AFFECTED

Interstate Commerce Commission Makes Slashing Reductions on Horizontal Basis to Stabilize Business.

Agricultural Schedules Are Unchanged—Decision Says Roads Are Only Entitled to 5 3/4 % Profit.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—Reductions in freight rates averaging about 10 per cent. were ordered to-day by the Interstate Commerce Commission in a decision resulting from its inquiry into the general rate structure of the Nation.

In the Eastern section of the country, the reduction, which will take effect on July 1, will be 14 per cent.; in the West 13 1/2 per cent., and in the Southern and Mountain Pacific territories 12 1/2 per cent.

In showing the extent of these reductions in the Western section, for example, it was pointed out that the commission's order reduces present rates by amounts that will make them finally 21 1/2 per cent. higher than rates in effect before 1920.

In ordering the decreases, which are on a horizontal basis, the commission held that the Nation's railroads are entitled to earn 5 3/4 per cent. on the value of their property rather than the approximate 6 per cent. under the Transportation Act of 1920.

Increases authorized under the act were nearly cut in half in some instances by the commission's order to-day. In the Eastern district the 40 per cent. increase of Aug. 25, 1920, was cut to 26 per cent.; in the Western district the previous 35 per cent. increase was cut to 21 1/2 per cent.; in the Southern and Mountain Pacific districts the previous rate increase of 25 per cent. was cut to 15 1/2 per cent.; interterritorial increases, averaging 23 1/2 per cent., were cut to 20 per cent.

Transportation charges on passenger travel and Pullman charges were left unaffected by the decision.

Calculations as to the general percentage of reduction effected by the commission's decision were confusing. The statement by Commissioner Potter that they averaged generally 10 per cent. was accepted, however, as correct by the commission's personnel and rate experts generally.

Though the decision, as an instance, actually removed 14 per cent. from rates in Eastern territory, the 14 per cent. is to be calculated on the basis of rates in effect before Aug. 1, 1920. At that time, they were increased 40 per cent. and the result of the mathematical calculation gives approximately 10 per cent. of existing rates as the reduction ordered in today's decision.

The reductions will save the shippers of the country approximately \$200,000,000 a year, it was officially announced. Other rate cuts ordered during the last eighteen months will push the total above \$500,000,000.

Agricultural products will not be affected. The reduction of 16 1/2 per cent. made in the Western hay and

### RAILROADS INSIST ON WAGE REDUCTION BEFORE RATE CUTS

Executives to Press Claim for Decreases to Railroad Labor Board.

(From a Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)

WASHINGTON, May 24.—The committee of railroad executives, headed by Daniel Willard, will confer with the members of the Interstate Commerce Commission to-morrow on the general rate decision made public to-day.

Until this further conference is had, it was indicated at the offices of the railroad executives here to-day, no formal announcement will be made as to the attitude of the carriers.

It is known, however, that the roads are protesting against the 10 per cent. horizontal reduction in rates which the decision makes and against the substitution of 5 3/4 per cent. for 6 per cent. as a fair return from the properties. The railroad executives, it is learned, are standing up on their original proposition that wages of labor must first be reduced in order to make the freight rate cuts practicable.

Applications of the carriers have been on file with the Railroad Labor Board since last November for permission to put railroad wages back to practically the same level that obtained when Federal control was terminated.

"The railroads decreased maintenance of way work \$150,000,000 last year and, by decreasing the amount of maintenance work done on cars and locomotives, saved an additional \$100,000,000," said a railway official to-day who has been identified with the rate controversy.

"It is not true that the carriers want to take all of the expense reduction out of railroad labor. It has been found that the chief cost materials and railroad supplies is other reduction in wages of miners would mean a saving of 20 to 25 cents per ton on railroad coal, and it would represent a saving of coal to the roads of \$75,000,000 to \$100,000,000 annually."

It was pointed out that in view of the 25 per cent. decline in traffic last year the roads had found it impossible up to this time to make rate reductions.

The representatives of the carriers were somewhat surprised at the announcement of the Interstate Commerce Commission decision to-day.

At the conference between the railroad executives and the Interstate Commerce Commission the former ascertained that the commission had formulated a programme of rate reductions, but a second conference was arranged for and it was a surprise that the decision to-day was made public in advance of a further discussion. Sentiment among business men is so strong for the necessity of rate reductions that it is not likely there will be any modification of the attitude of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which has the formal support of the President.

It appears now that the best the carriers can expect from the situation is leverage with which to force favorable action by the Railroad Labor Board on the question of wage reductions for certain classes of railroad employees.

THE WORLD TRAVEL BUREAU, Arcade, Polignac Building, 30-31 Park Row, N. Y. City. Telephone BR 6-2000. Check room for baggage and parcels open day and night. Money orders and travelers' checks for sale.—Adv.

### POLICE KILL ONE HOLD-UP, WOUND ANOTHER, IN DUEL AFTER \$12,000 PAYROLL JOB

Cashier of Connecticut Company and Assistant Black-jacked on Street.

TWO OTHERS CAPTURED

Believed to Be New York Thieves, Travelling in Stolen Auto.

(Special to The Evening World.) BRIDGEPORT, Conn., May 24.—

A hold-up in the heart of Bridgeport, pursuit of the car of the armed thugs, by policemen and firemen, a pistol battle at Stratford, a suburb to the eastward of this city, one hand killed, another wounded, two others captured and \$12,000 recovered, forms the outline of a series of thrilling happenings here this afternoon. One of the prisoners described himself as Irving Graust of No. 91 Willett street, New York.

The police ascertained that the dead man was probably Louis tone, known as "loney" among his companions, living in New York, address unknown.

The men under arrest are Herman Groust, said to be known as Max Freedman, and also said to be the leader of the gang; Max Becker, New York City, who declined to give any address, and Edward Kierout, nineteen, who said he lived at No. 22 Pike street, New York. Groust is said to have lived on Willett street, New York.

The machine used by the men is said to have been stolen here. One of the bandits says it was taken from in front of St. Vincent's Hospital, where it was parked, about an hour before the hold-up. The registry number is credited to Frederick Snyder, of Spring Street, but up till early afternoon he had not been found.

The hold-up thugs, all young men, came from New York in an unregistered and probably stolen touring car. They planned to set hold of the payroll of the Connecticut Company, the corporation which operates the street railways in this section of the State. Apparently they knew that the money for the payroll, comparatively unprotected, has been carried from the company's offices across the street to the car house at stated times.

Shortly after noon Sidney Tibbals, assistant cashier, and William Dunn, a clerk, started across the street carrying a box containing the money. An automobile containing four men, which had been moving slowly, stopped in front of them.

Two of the men in the car, carrying blackjacks, leaped out and tackled Tibbals and Dunn. Tibbals fell unconscious. Dunn also fell, but had full possession of his senses. The thugs grabbed the box, tossed it into the car and climbed in after it. The car started eastward.

Dunn jumped up and fired five shots at the vanishing car. One of the bandits returned the fire. The fusillade was their undoing.

A block further on they passed a

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### MRS. DE VALERA PRESENTS LEADER WITH TWIN BOYS

DUBLIN, May 24 (Associated Press).—Mrs. Eamon De Valera, wife of the Republican party leader, today gave birth to twin boys. Mrs. Charles Burgess, wife of the former Minister of Defense in Mr. De Valera's Cabinet and a prominent opponent of the Anglo-Irish treaty, gave birth to a daughter.

Both fathers were profusely congratulated by their political adherents on this happy coincidence coming so soon after the agreement reached between the two Irish political factions.

### TAXPAYERS' RADIO WILL "BROADCAST" Hylan's SPEECHES

Grover Whalen Says \$50,000 Station Will Be Ready Before Campaign.

Mayor Hylan to-day disclosed the real reason for the proposed \$50,000 wireless broadcasting station on the roof of the Municipal Building. It is to be used to broadcast the Mayor's speeches and to tell the people what wonderful things the Administration is doing for them.

If the newspapers refuse to reiterate the Mayor's usual speeches about the "subsidized press," the "interests" and the like of that, or if the Citizens' Union dares to criticize the Mayor's policies, Grover A. Whalen, who will have complete charge of the municipal wireless, will turn on the electric juice and shoot contradictions into every household possessing a receiving set.

Not only will it be possible to "govern" the city with Hylan's messages on city affairs, but it will be possible to send the Hylan propaganda to every part of the State, because, as Commissioner Whalen explained to-day, the station will have a radius of from 1,500 to 1,600 miles in good weather. For instance, if Mayor Hylan wants to say something nice about William Randolph Hearst, it will not be difficult for him to "say it with radio," and din it into the ears of every up-to-date farmer or up-State resident owning a radio set.

To-day the Commissioner of the Whole informally appropriated the \$50,000 for the station, both Comptroller Craig and Manhattan Borough President Miller refusing to vote. Formal action will be taken at Friday's regular meeting, unless an injunction restraining the board from appropriating the money is obtained.

In explaining the possible uses of the station, Plans and Structures Commissioner Whalen, who will have complete charge, said:

"The station will be available for use by all city departments. It will prove invaluable to the Police Department in sending out police alarms and in the event the fire alarm telegraph system should break down. Ultimately all fire houses and police stations will be equipped with receiving stations, which will work in conjunction with and be a part of the city's complete system."

"The station can and will be put to other uses than those I have mentioned. It will broadcast concerts, which will be heard not only by those who have receiving sets, but also by people in public parks, where we will set up radiophone receiving stations and have giant amplifiers." Whalen said he expected the station to be ready this summer—in time for the political campaign.

Another statement made by Senator Caraway was that the Attorney General and Fetter, the New York attorney, "suggested" that Charles W. Morse had a kidney disease when they were endeavoring to secure his commutation from the Atlanta Penitentiary.

Mr. Caraway's statements in the course of another long address on the Morse case and war fraud prosecutions, were made in commenting on a statement issued by the Attorney General last night declaring that his connections with the Morse case were shown by letters of former President Taft and Attorney General Wickersham. The statement also suggested that the Attorney General's war

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## SLAYER OF PETERS MUST CONFESS ENTIRE STORY OF BLACKMAIL PLOT

### Discrepancies in Ward Shooting That Deepen Blackmail Mystery

Complicated Disclosures in the Killing of Peters and Counsel for Slayer's Explanation.

Some of the statements by witnesses in connection with the killing of Clarence Peters not mentioned by the officials who investigated the case, and the comment of Allan R. Campbell, Ward's attorney, are:

At least ten persons asleep within 200 yards of where Ward says the pistol battle took place did not hear a sound.

"That is a matter of argument."

Only one shell was found at the scene of the slaying, though Ward says he emptied his automatic, and a shell is ejected after each shot.

"Who said he emptied his automatic? We stand on our only statement issued Monday noon." When Mr. Campbell was shown that this statement specifically mentioned that Ward twice returned fire and that therefore he must have fired at least two shots, the lawyer replied: "Go find the other shell."

The tread of only one automobile was found near the body, though the blackmailers were supposed to have been in a car also.

"Well, what of that? That is a matter of argument too."

There was no sign of a struggle in the vicinity. The only marks were those of the victim, dug down under his feet, as if he fell in his tracks.

"That would seem to disprove the theory that Peters was shot in or near Mr. Ward's home and the body removed to where it was found." It was pointed out to Mr. Campbell that the body might have been thrown from the car without the occupant stepping off the running board.

There was no broken glass, such as would have fallen from an automobile window, shattered by a bullet, as Ward says his was broken by a shot from Peters's revolver.

"Our statement does not say anything about broken glass or the automobile being hit."

No pistol was found, and no one has accounted for the one Ward said Peters used in attacking him.

"That doesn't prove anything. His accomplices may have taken Peters's gun with them."

Both District Attorney Weeks of Westchester County and Coroner Fitzgerald declared to-day that they had not accepted Walter S. Ward's statements as to the time and place or method of the killing of Clarence Peters a week ago yesterday.

"Ward was not admitted to bail," said Mr. Weeks to-day, "because we blindly accepted the story his lawyers brought us. But the only evidence we had against him was that furnished by himself. We did not then have the results of the investigation which have since thrown doubt on some parts of the narrative. There was not the least danger of his escaping from the jurisdiction if he made the attempt—we had seen to that; and an attempt to run away or hide would have resulted in his arrest immediately. If he took the full responsibility for saying that we did not swallow his story, book, line and sinker. We regarded it, and still regard it, as calling for a rigid and painstaking investigation."

Mr. Weeks said he was aiding both Sheriff Warner and the Coroner in their study of the case. He asserted that the reason for deferring the inquest on the body of Peters was not alone the desire to have "Charlie Ross" and "Jack" named by Ward as participants with Peters in a blackmail plot. He said that the delay was partly due to gathering material which would bring out at the inquest the whole truth regarding the killing of Peters and the blackmail plot given as its cause by Ward.

Both the District Attorney and the Coroner said the lawyers for Ward had not been over frank with them regarding the blackmail plot. There had been intimations from the lawyers, Mr. Weeks said, pointing to a race track scandal as the basis for the blackmail.

WHOLE BLACKMAIL PLOT TO BE BROUGHT OUT.

The Coroner said that it was his intention to have the whole story of the blackmail plot brought out at the inquest as an essential part of the explanation for the supposed attack on Ward by Peters and his associates.

Sheriff Warner intimated to-day that he knew what had become of the pistol with which Ward said Peters had threatened him and of the shells of the cartridges which were ejected from Ward's automatic pistol in his battle with the blackmailers. But Mr. Weeks and the Coroner said the Sheriff had not communicated any such information to them. Stories to the effect that bullets have been found in the trunks of trees or telephone poles, near where the body of Peters was found, are untrue, the officials said. The only holes investigators could find near the place to-day were those made by the steel spurs of linemen's climbers or were partly overgrown with bark.

Some of the apparent discrepancies between Ward's story and established facts had proved unimportant, Fitzgerald said.

For instance, he said, the published statement that the bullet which killed Peters had not passed through his outer clothing, but only through his shirt, was incorrect. There was a bullet hole in the waistcoat of Peters, and it showed powder burns. There was no hole in the coat, but it might have been unbuttoned during such a struggle as described by Ward.

BLEEDING OF SLAIN MAN WAS INWARD.

There was also an explanation of the tread of the ground about the body of Peters from blood. The autopsy showed that Peters had bled nearly three quarts inwardly. As in the absence of the marks of the fire treads of more than one automobile,

### Officials Deny That Story of Millionaire's Son Has Been Accepted as Satisfactory—Young Woman Now Mentioned in Mystery—Mrs. Ward Stands by Him.

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